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The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 21 August on the warning process. I think we all agree that the Watch Committee mechanism needs an overhaul, and the suggestions in your letter indicate to me that we are moving towards a consensus on what should be done about it.

Over the past few months the Office of Current Intelligence in CIA has conducted a comprehensive study of warning functions in the community and has put forward several tentative suggestions. I have now asked my Deputy for the Intelligence Community to take the initiative in establishing an ad hoc committee of USIB to review the various options for revamping the Watch Committee/NSC mechanism and streamlining the strategic warning process. The committee will, of course, consider the views of all concerned members of the community.

In a related action, I am forwarding to USIB Principals a proposal for an alerting mechanism to cover the imminence of international crises such as the Arab-Israeli hostilities and the Cyprus coup. This proposal will be discussed at an early USIB meeting. As you are aware, it is a subject Dr. Kissinger showed particular interest in at the 23 August NSCIC meeting.

Sincerely,

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